

Case 3570

***Curculio scirpi* Fabricius, 1792 (currently *Notaris scirpi*; Insecta, Coleoptera, CURCULIONOIDEA, ERIRHINIDAE): proposed precedence over *Curculio rhamni* Herbst, 1784 and *C. scirpi* Rossi, 1790**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.3, 81.2.1 and 81.2.3 of the Code, is to conserve the name *Curculio scirpi* Fabricius, 1792, a common Palaearctic weevil species currently belonging to the genus *Notaris* (CURCULIONOIDEA, ERIRHINIDAE) by giving it precedence over the little-used older name *C. rhamni* Herbst, 1784 whenever these names are considered to be synonyms, and by suppressing the little-used senior homonym *C. scirpi* Rossi, 1790.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; CURCULIONOIDEA; ERIRHINIDAE; *Curculio*; *Notaris*; *Notaris scirpi*; *Notaris rhamni*; *Curculio scirpi*; weevil; Palaearctic.

1. Herbst (1784, p. 78) described a new species of ERIRHINIDAE (formerly CURCULIONIDAE) from Reppen (now Rzepin in western Poland) as *Curculio rhamni*. Subsequently (Herbst, 1795, p. 280) he redescribed this species accompanied by a drawing and specifying that it was already described previously. This taxon was first synonymised with *Eriirhinus scirpi* (Fabricius, 1792) (formerly *Curculio*, presently *Notaris*) by Gyllenhal (1835, p. 284) without comment. Klima (1934, p. 37) cited *C. rhamni* Herbst, 1784 as a doubtful synonym along with *Notaris scirpi* and *C. rhamni* sensu Herbst, 1795 as a synonym of *Notaris bimaculatus* (Fabricius, 1787) (presently *Tournotaris* Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal, 1999). Recently in their checklist of the weevils from the Kemerovo Province (southern Siberia) and the Coleoptera from Latvia respectively, Krivets & Legalov (2002, p. 820) and Telnov (2004, p. 105) quoted *Notaris rhamni* (Herbst, 1795) as a valid species, the latter placing *scirpi* (Fabricius, 1787 [sic] nec Rossi, 1790) in synonymy with *rhamni*. Telnov (pers. comm.) stated that 'reporting *Notaris rhamni* (Herbst, 1795) in this catalogue was a mistake and does not have any nomenclatural background'.

2. Since the type material of *C. rhamni* was not traced, recently Caldara & Winkelmann (2010) designated a neotype for this taxon following the original description and the drawing reported in Herbst's (1795) redescription and in accordance with Article 75 of the Code. They proposed the synonymy of this species with *Notaris scirpi* (Fabricius, 1792) (formerly *Curculio*).

3. Rossi (1790, p. 118) described *Curculio scirpi* based on specimens collected in "Etruria" (presently an area of central Italy including Tuscany and part of Umbria and Latium). Since then this taxon has never been listed in papers or catalogues except for Telnov (2004). No type specimens of *Curculio scirpi* Rossi are available at the Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität of Berlin (ex coll. J.C.L. Hellwig), where part of Rossi's collection is housed. However, Rossi's description agrees well with the modern concept of *N. scirpi* (Fabricius, 1792) (Hoffmann, 1958; Dieckmann, 1986; Smreczyński, 1972). Therefore, following all the qualifying conditions of Article 75.3 of the Code, with the express purpose of clarifying the taxonomic status of this taxon, clearly differentiated from other closely related species by characters reported by Hoffmann (1958), Smreczyński (1972) and Dieckmann (1986), we decided to designate a specimen bearing these characters as the neotype of *C. scirpi* Rossi. This is a male specimen labelled as follows: 'palude di Fucecchio, 19-11-967, L. Failla [handwritten] / Ex-coll. Failla [printed] / NEOTYPE, *Curculio scirpi* Rossi, 1790, des. Caldara & Winkelmann 2011 [red card, printed] / *Notaris scirpi* (Fabricius), det. Caldara & Winkelmann 2011 [printed]'. The specimen is 5.5 mm long (rostrum excluded), well preserved and set on a white rectangular card. It is deposited at the Museum of Natural History of Florence. The neotype locality of *C. scirpi* Rossi (originally 'Etruria') is Palude di Fucecchio (Pistoia, Tuscany, Italy). The following synonymy is here proposed: *Notaris scirpi* (Fabricius, 1792) = *Curculio scirpi* Rossi, 1790 n. syn.

4. *Notaris scirpi* (Fabricius, 1792) (formerly *Curculio*) is a common weevil species which has been cited under this name and this author repeatedly over the past 50 years (Abbazzi & Maggini, 2009; Abbazzi & Osella, 1992; Abbazzi et al., 1994; Alonso-Zarazaga, 2002; Alonso-Zarazaga et al., 2006; Angelini, 1987; 1998; Angelini & Montemurro, 1986; Bercio & Folwaczny, 1979; Caldara & O'Brien, 1995; Casalini & Colonnelli, 2001; Colonnelli, 2003; Dieckmann, 1986; Endrödi, 1970; Hansen M., 1996; Hansen V., 1964; Lohse, 1983; Morris, 2002; Pelletier, 2005, Pešić, 2004; Silfverberg, 1979; Smreczyński, 1972; Tempère & Péricart, 1989; Thompson, 2006; Wanat & Moczyski, 2005). Because of Krivets & Legalov's citation of *Notaris rhamni* (Herbst) and Telnov's (2004) citation of *Notaris rhamni* (Herbst) and *N. scirpi* (Rossi), the junior name *scirpi* Fabricius cannot be maintained under the Code, despite being in prevailing usage according to Article 23.9.1.2 of the Code (1999), as the conditions of Article 23.9.1.1 are not met. We also believe that the use of the senior primary homonym *scirpi* Rossi, 1790 would be undesirable and would cause nomenclatural confusion.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary power:

(a) to give the specific name *scirpi* Fabricius, 1792, as published in the binomen *Curculio scirpi*, precedence over the name *rhamni* Herbst, 1784, as published in the binomen *Curculio rhamni*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;

- (b) to suppress the specific name *scirpi* Rossi, 1790, as published in the binomen *Curculio scirpi*, for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
- (a) *scirpi* Fabricius, 1792, as published in the binomen *Curculio scirpi*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *rhamni* Herbst, 1784, as published in the binomen *Curculio rhamni*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
- (b) *rhamni* Herbst, 1784, as published in the binomen *Curculio rhamni*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *scirpi* Fabricius, 1792, as published in the binomen *Curculio scirpi*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *scirpi* Rossi, 1790, as published in the binomen *Curculio scirpi* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above.

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